

Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

What is abuse?

- Abuse is the intentional mistreatment of a child or disabled adult and can be physical, sexual, or emotional in nature.

What is neglect?

- Neglect is the failure to give children or disabled adult the necessary care they need.

What is exploitation?

- Exploitation is the illegal or improper use of a disabled adult or his resources for another's profit or advantage.

What must you do if you suspect abuse, neglect and/ or exploitation?

- If you suspect that a child or disabled adult is being abused, neglected or exploited, or if you think a child or disabled adult may have died from being mistreated, you must report what you know to the local [County Department of Social Services](#).
- This is the law ([N.C.G.S. § 7B-301](#) and N.C. G.S. 108A-102). Do not be afraid to report. As long as you are acting in good faith, you cannot be held liable ([N.C.G.S. §7B-309](#)).

What if you suspect that the abuse, neglect or exploitation was done by an unlicensed staff person at a group home worker or community worker?

- The worker can be reported to the Health Care Personnel Registry. The phone number for the Health Care Personnel Registry is 919-855-3969

What if you suspect that the abuse, neglect or exploitation was done by a licensed staff person?

- The worker can be reported to the licensing agency for the licensed staff person.

Additional information about Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation is available at the following website:

NC Division of Social Services: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/cps/about.htm>

Health Care Personnel Registry with the NC Division of Health Services Regulation: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/hcpr/index.html>